or imported. All other items can be done freely.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Madam, in the list of goods mentioned by the Minister, conspicuously, goods like tobacco and cotton are missing. What is the thinking of the Government in regard to export and promotion of export of cotton and tobacco ? Part 'b' of my question is : The hon. Minister mentioned about simplification of pre-shipment inspection on export. Madam, is it a fact that every consignment of agri-products that were exported to other countries could not be shipped and could not be unloaded at various ports in other countries for want of quality control and for exporting substandard stuff ? What steps does the Government propose to take to ensure quality and to augment quality control of agri-products ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : So far as quality is concerned, it has always been our effort and it is not a question of our efforts alone; After all those who are going to buy goods and services from our country must be assured that it will be according to the quality and standards they want. If it does not pass the test of their quality and standard, naturally, they will not like to have it. So far as the question of having some sort of artificial inspecting arrangement in the name of quality is concerned, a lot of complaints were received from the exporting community and even from the importers and the importing countries that it caused unnecessary delay and harassment. Therefore, we are gradually leaving it to the traders themselves because if we are not quality-conscious, we cannot sell our goods and those who buy it, it is for them to find out whether it is going to be according to their quality standards. Therefore, should there be an agency, in between, just to cause unnecessary delay ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question No. 46.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : The first part of my question about tobacco has not been answered.

Import of Raw Jute

*46. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow import of raw jute on the Open General Licence (OGL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Under the current Export & Import Policy effective from 1-4-1992 and valid for a period of five years, all items of raw materials, can be imported freely except those which are covered by the Negative List of Imports or by any provision of the Policy or any other law for the time being in force. Since import of jute is not covered by any of the above restrictions, its import is freely allowed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMEN: Gurudasji please be brief so that you can get an answer.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Is the Government aware that in view of the decline in the price of raw jute in Bangladesh and in view of the fact that the price of raw jute in the eastern parts of the country is a little higher than that, there is a move on the part of delinquent jute magnates to bypass the Indian market and to import raw jute from there and reap high profits ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Madam, my information is totally different and that is, Bangladesh is reluctant to give jute to us and if this information is correct, surely, I would like to take it up with Bangladesh and instead of sending jute through a clandestine route there should be a regular trade route.

*The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Madam, the point is whether Bangladesh is interested or not. What the hon. Minister is saying is about the legalised channel. He was the Finance Minister for a long time and he knows very well that trade also takes place in a channel which we do not describe as a legal channel. Therefore, my point is different. My point is whether the delinquent jute industrialists of West Bengal who had been running the industry are in a bid to import jute through a different channel or through the normal channel at lower prices which is going to have an impact of depression on the price of raw jute of our country. If so, what will the Government do in this regard ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I can deal with legal imports. I cannot deal with something which is illegal. Purchase of jute or procurement through JCI and others, these are related to my colleague, the Minister of Textiles and I will pass on the suggestion of the hon. Member to my colleague.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : In that case, why was this question admitted under this Ministry ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question was admitted correctly. But your supplementary is wrongly admitted. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Development of Export Policy by the States

*42. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to draw up an export policy on the lines of the industrial policy evolved by them ;

(b) if so, whether Government have contemplated any concrete steps to boost exports in the past few months ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether the views of the State Governments would be considered before making any further changes in the Import-Export policy ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has recently formulated a scheme to encourage the State Governments to set-up Export Promotion Industrial Parks. Under this scheme, the Centre will provide grants to the States not only for the construction of high standard export production infrastructure but also for its maintenance for five years.

(d) and (e) Views of the State Governments and others are duly taken into account as and when changes are made in the Import-Export Policy.

Subsidy to Fishing Operators of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels

*47. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the benefits of diesel oil subsidy did not reach actual fishing operators of deep sea fishing vessels in Visakhapatnam in the last two years ; and

(b) if so, whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is seized of the problem and what steps MPEDA is taking to rectify this errant situation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Complaints Received by the Protector General of Emigration

*48. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints which have been received by the Protector-General of